

## FUN AT ALL THE HOUSES.

## COMEDY WILL HOLD THE BOARDS THIS WEEK.

Crane in "The Senator" at Albaugh's, "Later On" at the National, "Shamus O'Brien" at the Bijou, and High-Class Variety at Kernan's—Notes of the Stage.

Mr. Richard Mansfield and his excellent company last week made Washington his second visit of the season, presenting the same repertory with which he has previously captured the favor of the public. Albaugh's Grand Opera House was filled each evening during the week as it has rarely been before this season. Mr. Mansfield's position on the stage is a distinctive one. He is an artist of peculiar versatility and power—not the power to excite impulses, but the power to command admiration—and this exquisite skill appears in everything he does on the stage. THE HERALD has heretofore spoken in praise of his plays and company. They are practically the same as they were earlier in the season, and there is nothing to be added excepting perhaps that Mr. Mansfield might prolong his stays in this city with profit to himself and pleasure to his host of admirers.

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There were some pretty good audiences at the National Theatre last week, albeit Mr. W. J. Scammon, who made his appearance there, has not yet reached the popularity of his cotemporary, Emmet, in his particular line of business. Mr. Scammon, however, differs from Emmet in that he adopts the dialect of Ireland, and makes his parts more robustly heroic. The play which he presents this year is a joint production by George H. Jessop and Horace Townsend called "Miles Aroon" and contains some little merit outside of the prime motive to keep the star prominently in the foreground. Mr. Scammon did his part well and sang some of his own bright songs in good style. His company is excellent in some particulars and not so good in others. Mr. Thaddeus Shine as Mike Carney lost himself completely in his character and gave a splendid bit of acting. Mr. Robert McNair succeeded well with the broader comedy portion of the performance in the part of Pat Phelan. Miss Mattie Ferguson as Maggie Farrell was very good and little Miss Constance Wallace as Nellie Glover was quite as sweet and charming as could be. The scenery was pretty and effective.

## A New Quartette.

The portion of the Washington public that attended the charming reception and soiree given by the members of the First Baptist Church on Friday evening were treated to a most happy surprise in the "Sixteenth Street Quartette" which made its informal debut on that occasion. Musical circles have been waiting with expectant interest for the opportunity to hear this quartette, rumors having been quite general to the effect that certain prominent vocalists of the city had been studying concert music since early fall with prospects of eclipsing anything purely local ever heard here. To say that they succeeded on Friday evening is high commendation in a city so eminently musical as Washington. There were two numbers announced for the quartette—"The Sea Hath Its Pearls" and "The Sands of Dee"—both arrangements of the most difficult and trying order, and these were rendered in a brilliant manner. In response to the enthusiastic applause an additional number was given. This consisted of a beautiful arrangement of the popular air, "My Pretty Jane," which was sung in exquisite style. The singing of these ladies and gentlemen is characterized by a delicate artistic finish seldom disclosed in concert music by mixed quartettes; and the evenness of their voices and the intelligence of their shading bring out in a marvellous degree not only the words but the spirit of the music they essay. There is no similar musical organization in the city at this time, and it is hoped that they will soon make their formal bow before the public. The quartette is composed of Mrs. E. Z. Perkins, soprano; Mrs. Eulalie Demore-Rheem, contralto; Mr. Alexander Mosher, tenor; and Mr. Charles Edward Rice, basso.

## Crane in "The Senator" at Albaugh's.

If there is one man in America to whom the native playwrights owe a debt of gratitude it is W. H. Crane, the genial comedian. Mr. Crane believes in the American drama, and when he began his career as a lone star after the partnership between himself and Mr. Robson had been dissolved it was with "The Senator," a play written by two bright young Americans, having an American story for its basis, and dealing exclusively with types of character to be found in this country. The native drama had been languishing up to this time, but Mr. Crane had faith in it, and proved his faith by his deeds. The result has more than justified his judgment as an actor and manager. The success of "The Senator" has been simply phenomenal. It celebrated the anniversary of its production at the Star Theatre in New York on January 13, and has been played in that house more than two hundred and fifty times, its career covering the better part of two full theatrical seasons. Some idea of the nature of that popularity can be gained by the fact that for the greater part of the run of "The Senator" the receipts at the box office of the theatre have averaged \$10,500 weekly, an enormous sum of money for even a metropolitan theatre to take in. The comedy is bright and sparkling, full of brilliant dialogue and crisp lines, bristling with humor, which gives Mr. Crane an opportunity to do the best work of his life as a comedian, and yet possessed of an element of serious interest which holds the attention of the audience from the rise of the curtain to the final fall. It is finely acted by Mr. Crane and his admirable company, and has won popular favor strictly on its merits. "The Senator" will be presented with the original New York cast at Albaugh's Opera House, commencing to-morrow evening.

## "Later On" at the National.

Hallen and Hart in "Later On" will be the next attraction at the National, beginning Monday night. This clever and successful skit has won a high place in the esteem of theatre-goers, and its brilliant young interpreters achieved success not at all unmerited. Manager Hine has gathered together a company of great strength and one that could as well interpret an opera as they do the high-class musical selections introduced into the comedy. Mollie Fuller, Annie Lewis, Ada Somers, and Adele Farrington form a coterie of beauty and talent hard to excel, while to the cleverness of Fred Hallen and Joe Hart, J. J. Sullivan, John E. McWade, and Harry Hilton form a perfect background. All the latest novelties in fun and frolic have been added to "Later On" until it now stands among the best farce-comedies on stage, and its interpreters have risen to a place that so many have tried and failed. Special scenery, elaborate accessories, and magnificent costumes all tend to a brilliant setting of a popular success. "Later On" possesses no chestnuts. As soon as any joke or business is worn threadbare by the many copyists of a good thing it is eliminated, and in its place some new

and startling gag is put, so those who have once enjoyed "Later On" enjoy it again when seen a second or third time. Matinees will be given on Wednesday and Saturday.

## "Shamus O'Brien" at Harris's.

Charles Erin Verner comes to Harris's Bijou Theatre next week in his popular Irish creation of "Shamus O'Brien." Since its visit to our city last season the play has been entirely revised and rewritten, making it brighter and more interesting. Mr. Verner's part has been strengthened by the introduction of several strong scenes and bits of comedy sparkling with characteristic Irish wit. Handsome scenery, painted from photographs taken in Galway, has also been added, thus enhancing the interest of what is really an Irish play of more than ordinary merit. The actor-antagonist has been very successful in giving life to the famous old poem, and the wild escapades of the "bould boy of Gillingall" are retold in a clever manner. The company is, if anything, stronger than it was last season. Handsome Katherine Walsh still plays the comely Irish lady, whose rebel speeches find an echo in the heart of every auditor. William Cahill is still greeted with storms of hisses as the villainous Shadrach O'Flinn, and the melodious screech of William Murphy's bagpipes sets the time to which the heels of the gallery gods are prone to keep pace.

## The Boston Symphony Orchestra.

On Thursday evening, February 26, this superb band of artists, under the inspiring guidance of Mr. Nikisch, will give the fourth concert of its series at Lincoln Music Hall. To give especial éclat to this musical occasion, the management announces as soloist the world-renowned pianist, Vladimir De Pachmann, whose unique concerts of last year were the success of the day at a time when some of the most noted pianists of Europe were appearing before the American public, and who makes his first appearance here at this concert. The programme reveals a selection attractive alike to the musically educated and to the less cultivated, but genuine music lover, and embraces standard compositions of the modern school and the noblest works of the masters. The sale of tickets begins to-morrow morning at J. F. Ellis & Co.'s, and, as usual, it will doubtless prove that only the early applicants will be able to secure seats. The programme is as follows: Overture, "Prometheus"; Goldmark; concerto for Piano, D minor, Mozart; andantino and Scherzo, from Fourth symphony, Tscholkowsky; piano solos, Chopin, et cetera, symphony, Beethoven. Soloist, Mr. Vladimir De Pachmann.

## The Stoddard Lectures.

Mr. Stoddard will give at Lincoln Music Hall, this (Sunday) evening, his lecture on "The Passion Play of 1890 at Oberammergau." conceded everywhere to be a wonderfully vivid and realistic description and reproduction of the scenes of this remarkable drama. The other lectures of the week will take place as follows: Monday evening, "Sweden, Queen of the Baltic"; Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, "Norway, Land of the Midnight Sun"; Thursday and Friday evenings, the last times of "The Passion Play." An extra matinee will be given on Saturday afternoon next, in response to a great number of requests for one more opportunity to hear of the "Land of the Midnight Sun." This matinee will positively close Mr. Stoddard's phenomenal season here.

## Rosina Vokes's Annual Visit.

Rosina Vokes, who has no equal in the regard of the theatre-goers of Washington, comes to the National on Monday, February 25, to begin her annual welcome visit. From her extensive repertoire Miss Vokes has made the following selections with which to delight her Washington friends. She will present three separate plays at each performance. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoon the performance will begin with a one-act comedy taken from H. J. Byron's "Married in Haste," entitled "Percy Pendergast," (first time here); this will be followed by B. C. Stephenson's one-act comedietta, "A Double Lesson," and conclude with "My Lord in Liverty" (first time here), a farcical comedy in one act by S. Theys Smith. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights the bill will consist of "The Old Musician," (first time here), a play in one act adapted from the French by Felix Morris, who will assume the title role; "Wig and Gown," (first time here), a comedietta by F. W. Sidney, and J. B. Buckstone's charming comedietta, "The Rough Diamond."

## Gus Hill's Big Show at Kernan's.

Gus Hill's World of Novelties, the leading novelty company of the country, will open at Kernan's Theatre to-morrow night for the week, presenting many new features and great cards. Gus Hill, the champion club-swinging of the world, will give a rare and red-hot athletic exhibition, in conjunction with Charles H. Hoey, the champion fancy club-swinging. Mr. Hill not only repeats his challenge for his or Hoey's equal, but invites local athletes to a contest. Then there is Chip, the child actor, whose imitations display a wonderful precocity. James E. Black, the legless dancer, is a great novelty. Emily Pearce is a great vocalist, with a rich, strong voice that is most pleasing. Among others are Estelle Wellington, Fred J. Huber and Kitty Allyn, Gilbert Sarony, Blockson and Burns, Charles G. Seymour, and Eddie and Josie Evans. It is a monster entertainment, concluding with the funniest farce, "Married Mashers." Ladies' matinees Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Next week, Howard's Big Burlesque Company.

## Mrs. Custer Calhoun's Readings.

Next Tuesday evening, the 17th instant, the National Rifles' Armory will doubtless be crowded with the friends of the Union Veteran Union to listen to the recitals from popular authors of Mrs. Margaret Custer Calhoun. Mrs. Calhoun is the sister of Gen. Custer and Lieut. Calhoun, who so heroically yielded up their lives in the Little Big Horn massacre. She has had a phenomenal success as a reader before large audiences in the principal cities of the North and West. The readings are for the benefit of the Veteran Union, and will no doubt test the full capacity of the Armory.

## Stage Notes.

Miss Emma V. Sheridan has written a novel.

Julia Marlowe will resume her starring tour in Baltimore on March 9.

Horatio Alger, the well-known writer of boys' stories, is writing a play for Elsie Leslie.

Harry Paulton has made quite a bit as Bender in "All the Comforts of Home" in London.

Ben Teal has gone to St. Louis to rehearse Maggie Mitchell's new play, "A Little Maverick."

Henry Irving has revived "The Lyons Mail" at the London Lyceum, appearing in his wonderful dual rôle.

As George H. Jessop has fallen heir to an estate in Ireland, there is some hope he will write no more plays.

Richard J. Ferris, of this city, has joined the road company of "The County Fair" to play the part of Tim, replacing Walter Perkins.

Ide Needle, one of the cleverest little artists on the stage, will retire permanently to private life next season. She is the wife of Ben Tutill, the manager.

Minnie Palmer appears in male costume in her new play, "A Mile a Minute." Perhaps it was

her desire to wear the trousers and go at a rapid gait that caused her recent trouble with her husband and manager, John R. Rogers.

Such has been the success of "Nerves" at the New York Lyceum that a series of extra matinees will be given to relieve the pressure on the night houses.

Chicago stands by Mrs. Leslie Carter. She was greeted by an immense audience when she opened there Monday night, and was recalled fourteen times.

The Mirror says that six new theatres will be built in New York within the next two years, and warns managers and speculators that they are overdoing the thing.

Marie Decca's numerous friends in Washington are very much gratified at her great success in concert in Boston. The newspaper criticisms of her singing were exceptionally enthusiastic.

The anniversary of Carmencita's first appearance at Ketter and Bial's, New York, was celebrated there Monday night with great éclat and the popping of unnumbered champagne corks.

A New York banker is said to be willing to put up \$350,000 for the erection in that city of a new theatre, to be devoted exclusively to the production of Charlie Hoyt's rollicking absurdities.

Manager French has secured for the New York Garden Theater Alphonse Daudet's new play, "L'Obstacle." The name of the English adaptation will be "Betrothed" and it will be produced in New York Easter Monday.

M. R. Curtis, who does not seem able to repeat the success he made in "Sam" of Posen," is about to try his luck with another new play, "Plastic" and Co., now writing for him by Charles A. Byrne and Archibald Gordon.

Robert Downing has achieved so great a success in "The Saracen" that he is obliged to play that piece almost exclusively. Next season he will produce another new historical tragedy and give a grand revival of "The Taming of the Shrew."

Helen Barry, the massive and no longer young English actress, whose American experiences have not been flattering, will soon emerge from her retirement again and try her luck with a new play, "All Quilt Winners," adapted from the German by Ben Teal.

The McCaull company at their recent engagement in Cleveland played to the best business of the season, and on Saturday night Manager Hart presented Mr. Harry Askin with a handsome gold pocket set with diamonds as a souvenir of the banner week of 1890-'91.

Lillian Russell sat down on Sunday last to an expensive dinner. One of the courses was a brace of golden Chinese pheasants that had won prizes at the Poultry Show, and had been presented to her by the Poultry and Pigeon Association. When living they were valued at \$50.

Minnie Palmer has blossomed out as the heroine of a melodrama called "A Mile a Minute," a leading feature of which is the appearance on the stage of a full-sized locomotive, puffing smoke and blowing off steam, and looking generally as if it were moving at a tremendous rate of speed.

The next season at the Casino will be devoted entirely to German light operas Americanized, the composers being Millwecker, Helmsberger, and Genée, a work from each having been accepted. The immediate successor of "Poor Jonathan" will be a new piece by Helmsberger, the composer of the popular Dresden china ballet.

Poor Blind Tom is in a bad way in a charitable home in Chicago. He can play no more owing to palsy, and his fortune has been eaten up. Tom was placed in St. Mark's Home before his illness commenced, and at first there was rejoicing among his fellow-inmates, but he is now helpless, and the uselessness of the Heaven-born gift of genius without a business head to manage it is again attested.

On an interesting programme of the Howard Athenaeum of twenty years ago are found the names of Messrs. Charles H. Drew, William H. Crane, Thomas Whipple, and E. A. McDowell, all of whom were in the ranks of "The Invisible Prince." Another programme of the same season bears the names of Mr. Joe Murphy, in Irish specialties, and Miss Emily Rigel, in a Hungarian ballet divertissement. Times have changed.—Boston Home Journal.

While Rosina Vokes was filling a recent engagement in Detroit a combination which had been playing "She" found itself stranded and without a cent of money. The news reached Miss Vokes's ears, who, without more ado, personally paid the hotel bill of each one of the unfortunate, bought for them railroad tickets to their homes, and forced upon each one, in addition, a sufficient amount of cash to cover "incidentals" on their journey home.

Because Joseph Jefferson placed his reminiscences in the Century and in a book other actors are hot after similar distinction. The book publishing and newspaper editors of New York are besought to print the recollections of actors who are of only a middling size in their profession. The manuscripts are not only offered free of charge, but when the writers are told that their work needs revision, they are ready to pay all the costs of reconstruction. "The truth is," said a member of a book house, "that actors' manuscripts were plenty and not wanted before the hit of Jefferson's autobiography was made. It was a good thing for him and the Century both, but the operation can't be repeated right away. If Booth would write his experiences on the stage I would pay him \$25,000 for each copy, and there is a good sized volume. But Booth won't listen to the idea, and there isn't another actor alive in America—except Jefferson, of course—whose autobiography would not be regarded as a self-advertisement."

## Zoological Park Expenditures.

Mr. Atkinson, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department, reported back to the House yesterday a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior for information as to the expenditures made for the Zoological Park in the District of Columbia. The resolution was adopted.

## A Board of Army Officers.

The Senate yesterday finally passed the bill providing for a board of Army officers to examine and report as to the physical condition of William C. Spencer, late captain in the U. S. Army, at the time of his resignation from the service. The bill now goes to the President for his approval.

## The Spinner Memorial.

The Spinner Memorial Association met in the parlors of Winodoughs last night. The following vice presidents at large were elected: Clara Barton, Mrs. C. W. Colby, Mrs. M. D. Lincoln, Miss Kate Field, Mrs. Lester Ward, Mrs. Comstock, Mrs. J. B. Sanner, Mrs. Dezen-dorf, and Miss Emma Rutter. The attendance was unusually large.

## A New Cavalry Post.

The Senate yesterday passed the bill to appropriate \$100,000 to begin the construction of a four-company cavalry post at or near Essex Junction, or Swanton Junction, Vt.

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